

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**

March 11, 2014

**Contact:**

Vicky Waters, (916) 653-5115

[Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov)

## California State Parks Completes Park Unit Costing Report

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks has completed a park unit costing report allowing for a greater understanding of how departmental funding is allocated among the 280 state parks. The report estimates expenditures for individual park units across the system for the 2010-11 fiscal year and also includes estimated budget for park unit in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

In the past, the Department did not record expenditures at the park unit level.

“The inability to speak in detail about the level of resources spent to support an individual park unit limited the Department’s ability to discuss and implement the innovative funding arrangements we seek, such as new partnerships and operating agreements,” said Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), director of California State Parks. “Completing this report is a significant accomplishment and part of our long-term vision to ensure a sustainable State Parks System, and will improve our mission and stewardship of the cultural and natural resources in our charge.”

Throughout the California State Park System, resources are shared between geographically or thematically similar park units, allowing for districts to be nimble in their response to resource needs. Historically, budgeting and fiscal tracking for park units has been done at the district or sector level—reflective of how the resources are managed and shared. However, this methodology of fiscal tracking has not allowed for precise reporting of fiscal information for an individual park unit. Additionally, while resources may be managed at the district level, policy decisions and conversations about the park system are more often within the context of individual park unit, not the districts.

The need for this level of information became even more apparent as the Department discussed its budget with the Legislature last year. Consequently, the Legislature requested and the Department developed an estimate of expenditures for each park unit for fiscal year 2010-11.

While the information for the 2010-11 fiscal year is not as precise as it would have been, had our fiscal tracking systems been tracking to this level, it is more detail than the Department has ever provided and should allow for more informed conversations about the California State Park System.

Going forward, the Department has established a new policy and modified fiscal tracking systems to track expenditures at the park unit level. Consequently, in the future, the Department will be able to report these expenditures in a more timely and precise manner.

California State Parks operates the State Park System and is currently comprised of 280 park units (278 park units in 2010-11 fiscal year) that help deliver parks and recreation services to the people of California. The State Park System is organized into 25 districts, five of which include off-highway vehicle parks. Many of the districts are further organized into 66 smaller groupings called sectors, and each sector comprises several park properties.

[View the Per Unit Report here](#), or contact Vicky Waters, Deputy Director of Communications, at [Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov).

**California State Parks Mission**

*To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.*

###